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# U.S. Policy On Iran

By Gus Hall

The United States hostages in Iran must be freed, and the sooner the better. They should be freed not only for humanitarian reasons and not only because we cannot condone the violation of traditional diplomatic norms. There is an even more urgent reason — to avoid war.

Let us speak bluntly. There are those in the Pentagon and the White House for whom the hostages have become a standing pretext for armed intervention. They envision military action in order to re-establish neo-colonial domination over Iran and the uncontested control of the region's oil by the Western oil giants.

It was in such a perspective that the Iranians and most of the world viewed the aborted "rescue" operation. To Iranians it had all the earmarks of armed intervention planned to coincide with a counter-revolutionary uprising against the Iranian Government. To them it had the stench of the 1953 coup, organized by the Central Intelligence Agency, that overthrew nationalist Premier, Mohammed Mossadegh, restored the fugitive Shah to the Peacock Throne, and handed control of the nationalized oilfields back to the foreign monopolies.

Any attempt to repeat such a military action — or a C.I.A. operation, whether apparently internal or seemingly emanating from a neighboring Arab country — would send Iran and much of the Persian Gulf area up in flames. Therefore, it is in the overriding interest of peace that one must approach the issue.

Neither a tricky mumbled diplomatic "apology" or John Wayne-type military adventurism will resolve this fateful crisis.

What is required is bold and decisive action of a radically different sort — a 180-degree turn in Washington's policy toward Iran.

Primarily it requires that the United States Government once and for all come to terms with the fact that Iran has experienced a great national

democratic revolution. Whatever its internal problems, Iran is a sovereign nation no longer ruled by the torture regime of a Shah and Savak, the barbaric C.I.A.-trained secret police. It is a nation that will never again suffer a Shah serving as gendarme over the Persian Gulf and its oil treasures for the benefit of foreign monopolies.

This means that Pentagon and C.I.A. plans for overt or covert intervention in Iran must be definitively shelved. Iron-clad assurances of non-intervention must be publicly given.

Some specific steps to implement such assurances might include the following: withdrawal of all United States naval and military forces from waters adjacent to Iran; lifting all sanctions on Iran; unfreezing Iranian assets held in United States banks and returning to Iran the vast sums taken out of the country by the Shah and his entourage; resumption of normal diplomatic relations; ending all Government harassment of Iranian students and other Iranian nationals now in the United States; opening negotiations for a nuclear-free zone of peace in the Persian Gulf area.

There should also be a report, or white paper, by a joint Senate-House committee reviewing the actions of the oil and banking interests and the C.I.A. in respect to Iran since 1952. Links of the Shah and his embassy officials to various members of Congress and other Government officials should be placed on the public record. Such a document would set the record straight.

It need hardly be emphasized that these steps can be most effective in an atmosphere of détente between the United States and the Soviet Union. Peace in the affected area can hardly develop in a cold war atmosphere.

These steps would represent a decisive break with the Rockefeller-Kissinger-Brzezinski, pro-Shah, pro-oil-monopoly policy pursued by our Government. Such steps would lay the basis for the prompt release of the hostages. Further, they would assure normal trade relations, including the unimpeded flow of oil from the region.

Most important, such steps would defuse a time bomb that could explode into thermonuclear war. The whole world would heave a gigantic sigh of relief.

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